

On July 16, I decided to allow Title III of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act (LIBERTAD) to enter into force, putting companies doing business in Cuba on notice that by trafficking in expropriated properties they face the prospect of lawsuits in the United States. I also suspended the right to file suit for 6 months to allow us time to forge a common approach with our allies and trading partners to accelerate democratic transition in Cuba. U.S. allies and friends have long shared this goal, but we have not always agreed on how to achieve it. The time has come for us to take more concrete steps together.

At that time, I also announced that I would appoint a special representative to build international support for increasing pressure on Cuba to open up politically and economically; encouraging forces for change on the island; better targeting foreign assistance in ways that advance democratic goals; and promoting business practices that will help bring democracy to the Cuban workplace. In coming weeks and months, Stu Eizenstat will consult with Cuban-American civic leaders and Members of Congress here in the U.S. before traveling to Europe, Canada, and Latin America to enlist the cooperation of allied governments, non-governmental groups, and companies.

As stipulated by law, at the end of this 6-month period I will review the progress we have made with our allies before deciding whether to continue the suspension of the right to sue under Title III.

I am confident that the democratic values and far-reaching interests that we share with our allies and partners will allow us to overcome disagreements over some aspects of the LIBERTAD Act and refocus our attention where it belongs, on promoting democracy in the hemisphere's only nondemocratic nation.

Cuba's recent actions underscore the need for the United States and the international community to press hard for change on the island. In February, Cuban MIG's shot down without warning two unarmed U.S. civilian aircraft in international airspace, killing four innocent men. The Cuban Government has systematically repressed prodemocracy activists and independent journalists.

Stu Eizenstat has a unique combination of domestic and foreign policy experience as former President Carter's chief domestic policy adviser and as U.S. Ambassador to the European Union. Ambassador Eizenstat will continue to serve as Under Secretary of Commerce and as the State Department's special envoy for property restitution in Central and Eastern Europe.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

August 10

The President announced the recess appointment of Wyche Fowler, Jr., to be Ambassador to Saudi Arabia. Mr. Fowler was nominated on June 10, 1996, and his nomination is pending before the U.S. Senate.

August 12

In the morning, the President and Hillary and Chelsea Clinton traveled from Jackson Hole, WY, to Yellowstone National Park. In the afternoon, they took a hiking tour of the park and returned to Jackson Hole in the evening.

August 13

The President announced his intention to appoint Allan S. Huston to the National Commission on Crime Control and Prevention.

August 14

The President declared a major disaster in West Virginia and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by heavy rains, high wind, flooding, and slides on July 18–31.

August 15

The President announced his intention to appoint Leslie L. Byrne to be Director of the Office of Consumer Affairs at the Department of Health and Human Services.

The President announced that Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala will appoint Ronald S. Johnson to the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS.

The President announced his intention to appoint Philip Lader to be a member of the Board of Governors of the American National Red Cross.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released August 13

Transcript of a press briefing by Deputy Press Secretary Mary Ellen Glynn and Special Assistant to the President for Economic Policy Elgie Holstein on the Federal Oil and Gas Royalty Simplification and Fairness Act of 1996

Statement by Press Secretary Mike McCurry on the situation in Chechnya

Released August 14

Transcript of a press briefing by Deputy Press Secretary Mary Ellen Glynn

Released August 16

Transcript of a press briefing by Deputy Press Secretary Mary Ellen Glynn

Acts Approved by the President

NOTE: No acts approved by the President were received by the Office of the Federal Register during the period covered by this issue.